



## Caring for Your New Sod

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Now that the new lawn is in place along the street and driveway areas, care must be taken in order that it survives. We ask for your assistance to help ensure that the lawn receives adequate water and proper maintenance.

To begin with, please avoid walking on your new sod for the first two weeks.

### Water

Please begin watering your new sod as soon as it has been placed. Your efforts, when combined with the contractor watering the sod (for the *first 30 days only*), will help ensure the sod will grow and your lawn will look its best. **After the first 30 days, it will be entirely up to you to water. The City will review the sod after 30 days and if acceptable, then it is your responsibility to maintain. The City will not replace sod after it is accepted from the Contractor.** Your actions will be especially important if there is little rainfall and hot temperatures.

The rule of thumb for watering mature lawns is a minimum of 1 inch per week. *New sod requires twice as much water or 2 inches per week*, done in three or four applications. More frequent, lighter watering is not beneficial — it will encourage shallow roots instead of deep roots. Lawns need deep roots to help them withstand periods of little or no rain. During extended hot and dry periods, new sod should be thoroughly soaked every day. Checking to see if you are watering enough is easily done by placing a shallow, flat-bottomed container under the sprinkler. Then just measure the water depth in the container. Watering early in the morning or early evening is recommended to avoid waste of water due to evaporation. Whenever possible, avoid watering from about noon to 6:00 pm and after 9:00 pm.

*Any rainfall received during the week can be included in your 2-inch a week watering total.* You should continue watering the new sod for the remainder of the summer and fall.

### Maintenance

Even after your new sod appears to have taken hold, it is not as sturdy as an established lawn. It takes a while for the roots to reach their mature length. Until the roots are mature, the sod is still susceptible to dry conditions. *Remember to deeply water.* It is also advisable to let the sod grow a little longer than normal when conditions are

dry. Fertilize as described below if the sod begins to yellow.

### Mowing

Your new sod or seed should not be mowed until either the grass lays over and mats down when wetted or the grass goes to seed. It may take longer than 30 days for these conditions to occur. Prior to mowing, set the mower deck at the *highest setting* and cut the new sod or seed with this setting for the remainder of the year. *Your new lawn will likely die if you cut it at the same setting as the one you ordinarily use to cut your mature lawn.*

### Fertilizing

Your new sod was fertilized at the place it was grown; therefore, *it will not need fertilizer* until the fall or next spring. *If you fertilize sooner, you risk killing the sod.*

In late fall or next spring, fertilizer may be needed if the grass begins to yellow. Phosphorous-free fertilizer is required on mature lawns. We recommend a slow-release fertilizer such as 10-0-10 or 22-0-10. Phosphorous type fertilizers may be used on new lawns but should be avoided if the area drains to the storm sewer, ponds or wetlands.

Thank you for your help!